



Guidelines for establishing a
National Standards Users' Society



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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF STANDARDS USERS

IFAN Online

Our Vision: elimination of technical barriers to trade by use of International Standards

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Latest News

IFAN events in Beijing (China), 24-26 October 2006

The 33rd IFAN Members' Assembly and IFAN workshop *Applications of standards in China and beyond* held in Beijing respectively on 24 and 25-26 October 2006, were successful. Among other things, participants at the Members' Assembly had constructive discussions related to activities of IFAN and its working and project groups. The Members' Assembly approved the IFAN strategies for 2006-2010 and elected two new Board members: Mr. Thomas Laemmle (DaimlerChrysler AG) and Mr. Didier George (ACANOR).

The Workshop was well attended (115 Chinese participants and 40 participants from other countries: all from senior positions in their companies and an excellent spread of industry sectors - interest areas). There was good networking and this will hopefully contribute to improving the relationship between the standards community of China and that of the rest of the world. Presentations made at the workshop are available to the IFAN members and the public in the section [IFAN conferences, workshops, open sessions](#).

IFAN survey on standards distribution

IFAN WG 3 "Standards distribution" is currently conducting a survey on standards distribution and needs of standards' users in this field.

For this purpose, the group, with the support of the IFAN Board, has prepared the Standards Distribution Questionnaire which is attached to this message in [Word](#) and [PDF](#) formats.

Visitors to the [IFAN Web site](#) are kindly invited to complete the questionnaire and return it to the IFAN Secretariat by [e-mail](#) or by fax + 41 22 749 01 55. Your participation in the survey will be much appreciated.

First meeting of the IFAN working group on education and training

IFAN has created a new IFAN working group IFAN WG 16 "Education and training" in June 2005. The group held its first meeting in Strasbourg on 12 July 2006. At this meeting, the participants, inter alia, developed scope/task of the group, as follows:

- To support and promote initiatives in education and training in the standardisation field at international, regional and national levels;
- To observe initiatives and inform the communities concerned by standardisation (stakeholders, users, education professionals, experts, etc.) on education and training in the standardisation field at international, regional and national levels;
- To support, facilitate and encourage networking in this field.

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Foreword

Founded in 1974, the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) is the recognized international voice of standards users and provides its members with direct input into international and regional standards associations. IFAN members include national organizations for the application of standards, companies, professional and trade associations, and government agencies concerned with the use of standards.

National IFAN members are usually standards users organizations / committees in a given country/customs territory which admit standards users to their membership without restrictions with respect to professions, industry sectors, sub-divisions of territory, etc. These organizations provide a variety of services and programs to keep members informed of issues of interest to standards users and promote users needs and concerns. Current IFAN national members operate within a variety of organizational structures. Several members have created the following web sites for providing additional information on their organizations:

China:	China Association for Standardization www.china-cas.com
France:	Association française pour la connaissance et l'application des normes (ACANOR) www.acanor.org
Germany:	Ausschuss Normenpraxis (ANP) im DIN www.anp.din.de
Netherlands:	NormalisatieKringen Nederland (NKN) www.nkn.nl
Norway:	Standardiseringsforeningen (STANFO) www.standard.no/imaker.exe?id=3105
Slovenia:	Standards and Quality Commission www.gzs.si
Switzerland:	Schweizerischer Ausschuss Normenpraxis (NOP) www.snv.ch/nop
United Kingdom:	British Standards Society (BSS) www.bsi-global.com/bss
United States/Canada:	Standards Engineering Society (SES) www.ses-standards.org

General information on standards organizations around the world is available on the Worldwide Standards Services Network (www.wssn.org) Web site.

This booklet provides guidance for countries interested in creating a national standards users' society and will hopefully encourage the establishment of these groups to support and further the needs of standards users throughout the world.

Guidelines for establishing a National Standards Users' Society



The National Standards Users' Society (NSUS) is the national voice of standards users. It is affiliated with the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) and helps standards users stay informed about standards developments and implementation, as well as the benefits of using standards based on the practical experience of others. The NSUS provides users' views and needs to the national standards body of each country in order to promote effective participation in standardization and standards development. The NSUS assists countries in taking advantage of standardization and improves a country's capability to access global markets.

Objectives

- To improve standards users' awareness in order to promote the use of standards and increase their knowledge of standardization;
- To identify the needs of a country in the field of standardization and help meet them;
- To encourage standards users to set up comparable national committees related to international committees that are important to users and provide feedback from these committees to the country's national standards body;
- To influence the international standards process through the national standards body;
- To keep standards users up to date concerning standards development;
- To initiate or organize conferences, standards-related courses, training seminars, and workshops to improve and increase the knowledge of interested parties in standardization matters.
- To identify priorities for developing and reviewing standards;
- To have their proposals included in the national standards body's annual strategic plan;
- To collaborate with non-NSUS members.





Membership of NSUS

Membership in the NSUS is open to anyone interested in standards, the use and implementation of standards, the standards developing process and standardization in general whether they are companies, organizations or individual standards users.

Members are from:

- Industry
- Commerce
- Academia
- Service organizations
- Government
- Consumer organizations
- Media
- Other interested parties

The membership subscription rates are decided by the Board of Directors.

Benefits of membership

- Keep members up to date on the important issues of interest to them related to standards, standardization and conformity assessment and to promote business and access global markets;
- Members can influence the development of standards that are important to them and their industries through the national standards body;
- Provides members with the opportunity to attend ISO and IEC committees, e.g. CASCO (ISO Committee on conformity assessment), DEVCO (ISO Committee on developing country matters) etc., training courses and workshops through the national standards body of their country.
- Discounts on registration fees when attending NSUS conferences, standards-related courses, training seminars, or workshops.
- Discounts on the Society's publications.

Finance

The Society is financed by membership subscription fees, income from the annual conference, training seminars, standards-related courses, workshops, and sales of publications.

NSUS conference

The NSUS holds at least one conference every year. This conference is open to all persons interested in the work of the NSUS. It is generally focused on issues related to the Society's objectives.



Structure of NSUS

The structure of the NSUS includes the Board of Directors, working groups, and the Secretariat.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors should be constituted to reflect the composition of the membership of the NSUS and meet the legal requirements of the jurisdiction under which it will operate. Directors should be elected by members of the NSUS. Directors will appoint the President and as necessary Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary (may or may not be a member of the Board). The Board should meet at least once a quarter or more frequently as required. The meeting agenda includes reports on follow-up actions with regard to resolutions, Board activities, projects, and a financial report from the Treasurer, when appropriate.

Working groups

Working groups are set up by the Board of Directors for dealing with projects and the development of specific tasks. The objectives of such groups are identified taking into account the NSUS objectives. Working groups are composed of the representatives of NSUS members and may also include representatives of organizations cooperating with the NSUS.

Secretariat

The Secretariat of the NSUS may be operated by the national standards body or a member of the NSUS. The Secretariat of the Society may recruit staff to assist them with organizing Board of Directors meetings, preparing agendas and relevant working documents for each meeting, and taking the minutes of the meeting.



